

## Forest Stewardship: Helping Landowners Achieve Multiple Objectives

Private forest land makes up approximately 300,000 acres in King County. This represents about 22% of King County's total land area. These forested lands provide multiple benefits to the region, including flood control, habitat for fish and wildlife, including the federally listed Chinook salmon, a local source of timber and non-timber forest products, and recreational amenities.

There are an estimated four to five thousand non-industrial private forest land (NIPF) owners in King County, and that number is expected to rise. Every owner's set of goals is unique, and may include wildlife habitat enhancement, income generation from timber production, recreational uses, or special forest products, a place of refuge and solitude, or simply the maintenance of a healthy forest.

***"I took this class to gain familiarity with our family property so that I could participate in conversations about it in an educated way."***

King County has partnered with Washington State University (WSU) Extension to conduct Forest Stewardship Planning courses to ensure that non-industrial private forestland (NIPF) owners have up-to-date information about forest health and function in order to best achieve their owner goals and objectives. These courses are based on the highly



**King County Forester Bill Loeber explains forest inventory methods to stewardship class participants.**

*Photo A. Grotta*

successful Forest Stewardship Coached Planning courses offered statewide by WSU Extension, along with the Washington Department of Natural Resources. In King County, the classes are tailored specifically to the issues facing NIPF owners at the rural/urban interface. The eight-week courses are held three times a year at different locations around the county.

***"This class took away some of the trepidation I had about somehow making a big mistake."***

Since 1999, **over 330 individuals representing over 280 households** have taken part in Forest Stewardship Planning courses. Many have submitted completed Forest Stewardship Plans to become eligible for Forestlands, Timberlands, or Public Benefit Rating System tax incentive programs. Others have completed stewardship plans to benefit from having written documentation of their goals, objectives, resources, and implementation strategies. Still others take the classes simply to learn more about their property.



**Forest stewardship classes encourage protection of stream health and function, which ultimately benefits all of King County's residents.**

*Photo S. Sax*



# Healthy, Productive Forests -- One Acre at a Time



Washington Department of Natural Resources Forest Pathologist Melanie Kallas looks for evidence of root rot disease as Forest Stewardship Class participants look on.

*Photo A. Grotta*

In 2004, a Forest Stewardship class was conducted, both on Vashon Island and in Carnation. **Sixty-two individuals from 32 households** participated in these two classes, representing nearly **500 forested acres** in King County. The Carnation class was the largest in the five-year history of the program. A third class is scheduled for fall 2004, in the south King County area.

*"We liked the enthusiasm of the instructors, and their lack of political agendas."*

*"It was valuable to meet other property owners with similar interests."*

*"I've learned to be happy with all the alder on my property and how to work with it."*

*"I realized the importance of snags and downed wood and will be less likely to remove them for firewood."*

## FOREST STEWARDSHIP CLASS TOPICS:

Forest Ecology	Silviculture
Forest Inventory	Site Mapping
Fire Management	Soils
Hardwood Management	Special Forest Products
Hydrology	Stewardship Planning
Insects and Diseases	Tax Incentive Programs
Management Timelines	Tree Identification
Noxious Weeds	Wildlife
Regulatory Issues	Wetlands
Riparian Areas	



Students examine a core taken from a tree to assess the forest's age and growth history.

*Photo A. Grotta*

*For more information on the Forest Stewardship Program visit our webpage at [www.metrokc.gov/wsucce/forestry](http://www.metrokc.gov/wsucce/forestry) or call 206-205-3132*

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